

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4814

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3440

FOR D.ORTMAN, EB/OA/AVP

POUCHED FOR INFO TO CALGARY, HALIFAX, VANCOUVER, AND WINNIPEG

EO 11652 NA

TAGS EAIR CA

SUBJ CIVAIR: PRECLEARANCE ISSUES

REF OTTAWA 3415

1. QUOTED BELOW IS TEXT OF LETTER WHICH EMBASSY'S TCO HAS RECEIVED FROM FULFORD, DIRECTOR, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY DIVISION, EXTAFF. SEAL OF MOT TELEPHONED EMBASSY TODAY TO REPORT THAT MEETING ON PRECLEARANCE PROPOSED FOR OCTOBER 24 IN WASHINGTON IS NOW FIRM AND TO REQUEST THAT FULFORD'S LETTER BE IN HANDS OF ORTMAN BEFORE MEETING. FULFORD'S LETTER ENCLOSED MOT DOCUMENT RELATING TO PRECLEARANCE FACILITIES AT VICTORIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. EMBASSY HAS PUT COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT IN INTERNATIONAL AIRMAIL TODAY ADDRESSED TO ORTMAN. SEAL WILL BRING EXTRA COPIES WITH HIM TO WASHINGTON.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF FULFORD LETTER:

"FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WERE HELD

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RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING VARIOUS ISSUES

ON THE PRECLEARANCE OF TRANSBORDER FLIGHTS, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WOULD LIKE TO FORMALLY REQUEST THAT THE UNITED STATES ESTABLISH A PRECLEARANCE SERVICE AT HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BY APRIL 25, 1975. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE U.S. INSPECTIONAL AGENCIES HAVE APPROVED UPON A PLAN TO PROVIDE THE PROPOSED FACILITIES TO OPERATE SUCH A PRECLEARANCE SERVICE, AND PHYSICAL ALTERATIONS TO THE TERMINAL BUILDING CAN COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 1975.

"CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRE-CLEARANCE SERVICE AT CALGARY AND EDMONTON, AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE USER AIRLINES OF BOTH COUNTRIES, IT APPEARS THAT THE AIRLINES ARE NOT PREPARED TO AMORTIZE THE REQUIRED PRECLEARANCE FACILITIES AT THE EXISTING TERMINAL AT CALGARY, AND WOULD PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL THE NEW TERMINAL BUILDING IS IN OPERATION. AN OPTIMISTIC OPENING DATE FOR THE NEW TERMINAL AT CALGARY IS LATE FALL 1976, AND THE LATEST PESSIMISTIC DATE IS SPRING 1977. A MORE ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF THE DATE WHEN THE TERMINAL BUILDING WILL BE IN OPERATION WILL BE MADE KNOWN TO YOU AFTER THE MAIN TENDERS HAVE BEEN AWARDED LATER THIS YEAR AND DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH THE CONTRACTOR. MAINLY FOR OPEATIONAL REASONS, IT IS NOT PROPOSED THAT PRECLEARANCE SHOULD BE INSTITUTED AT EDMONTON UNTIL SUCH A SERVICE CAN COINCIDE WITH PRECLEARANCE AT CALGARY.

"THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD, HOWEVER, FOR REASONS MADE KNOWN AT THE PRECLEARANCE CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON THIS SUMMER, LIKE TO PRESS FOR THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF PRECLEARANCE AT VICTORIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AND IN THIS RESPECT, ATTACHED ARE TWO COPIES OF A DOCUMENT PRODUCED BY THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT ON THE PROVISION OF PRECLEARANCE FACILITIES AT THIS AIRPORT. PACIFIC WESTERN AIRLINES WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRECLEARANCE

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FACILITIES AT VANCOUVER FOR THEIR NEW DIRECT ROUTE FROM VANCOUVER TO SEATTLE. IT WILL BE APPRECIATED HOW INEFFICIENT IT WOULD BE FOR THIS AIRLINE TO OPERATE TO TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TERMINALS AT SEATTLE, AND THE AIRLINE HAS ASKED IF PRECLEARANCE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE AT BOTH VANCOUVER AND VICTORIA BY APRIL 25, 1975.

"ALTHOUGH THE REQUEST FOR PRECLEARANCE AT THE MARINE FERRY TERMINAL AT VICTORIA IS OUTSIDE OF THE BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT ON PRECLEARANCE, THE INSTITUTION OF PRECLEARANCE FOR THE VICTORIA-SEATTLE FERRY SERVICE WAS DISCUSSED AT THE PRECLEARANCE CONSULTATIONS THIS SUMMER. I NOW WISH TO WITHDRAW THE APPLICATION FOR PRECLEARANCE AT THE MARINE FERRY TERMINAL AS CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAYS HAVE NOW WITHDRAWN THE FERRY SERVICE.

"I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REFER TO SOME EVENTS THAT HAVE APPARENTLY TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY AT WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. A SUBMISSION WAS MADE BY MR. E. GARHARDT OF FRONTIER AIRLINES TO THE HON. JEAN MARCHAND, THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, REQUESTING THE MINISTER'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING PRECLEARANCE FOR THE SECOND FRONTIER AIRLINE FLIGHT OUT OF WINNIPEG. APPARENTLY, THIS AIRLINE WAS INFORMED BY THE U.S. BUREAU OF CUSTOMS THAT, DUE TO LACK OF FACILITIES AND STAFF, IT WAS UNABLE TO PRECLEAR THE AIRLINE'S SECOND DAILY SCHEDULE OUT OF WINNIPEG. IT IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SAME TREATMENT HAS BEEN ACCORDED TO NORTH CENTRAL AIRLINES THAT HAS BEEN AWARDED ONE OF THE ROUTES TO WINNIPEG UNDER THE NEW AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT.

"AIR CANADA HAS ALSO APPLIED FOR PRECLEARANCE AT WINNIPEG FOR ITS NEW ROUTE ON THE WINNIPEG-NEW YORK SECTOR DUE TO COMMENCE ON DECEMBER 1, 1974. THUS FAR, AIR CANADA HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED WHETHER OR NOT ITS PROPOSED NEW SERVICE CAN BE PRECARED.

"I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU ON THE
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WINNIPEG SITUATION AT YOUR EARLY CONVENIENCE.

"THERE IS ALSO THE OUTSTANDING ISSUE OF THE FINANCIAL LIABILITY OF THE AIRLINES FOR THE COST OF PRECLEARANCE SERVICES, WHICH IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE UNDER REVIEW BY THE UNITED STATES TREASURY. AS SOON AS THIS REVIEW HAS BEEN COMPLETED, I FEEL THAT THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE MERIT IF FORMAL PRECLEARANCE CONSULTATIONS COULD BE HELD BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES."
PORTER

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